



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 11, 2004 04-25

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Grand Teton National Park News Release

Yearling Bull Bison Euthanized

Grand Teton National Park biologists today euthanized a yearling bull bison that recently fell into an abandoned pit at the McCollister home site in the eastern portion of the park. Although his general physical condition improved over the past 7 days, the young bison was not able to stand on his hind feet and walk, indicating that he had possibly sustained internal injuries or nerve damage. Park biologists conferred with a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service veterinarian and the decision was made to humanely put the animal down.

Park employees discovered the yearling bison in a 4-foot wide by 7-foot deep old, dry seepage pit at the McCollister property on June 3. It is unknown how long he had been in the concrete-lined hole. After being freed from the pit by park rangers and maintenance staff, the yearling bison showed signs of improvement each day and gradually began to eat hay and drink water. However, the bison was unable to rise on all four legs to walk and therefore would ultimately perish because he could not properly function in the wild.

The bison's carcass has been moved from the site to a more remote location in the vicinity so that scavengers and other predators can utilize the carcass without being in close proximity to developed areas and human activities.

Grand Teton National Park 75th Anniversary ~ 1929-2004
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